

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 09562 311034Z
ACTION EA-12

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R 310921Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 9562

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF: STATE 80055

1. FROM THE INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACQUIRE, IT APPEARS THAT THE PERIOD BETWEEN MAY 3 AND MAY 8 WOULD MINIMIZE SCHEDULING PROBLEMS FOR THAILAND PORTION OF VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.
2. THE KING DEPARTS FOR HUA HIN (ABOUT 200 KM. SOUTHWEST OF BANGKOK) ON APRIL 20 AND IS NOT SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO BANGKOK UNTIL JUNE 10 EXCEPT FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN MAY AROUND CORONATION DAY (MAY 5), WHICH THIS YEAR WILL MARK HIS 33RD YEAR ON THE THRONE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE NORMALLY WOULD RETURN TO BANGKOK ABOUT MAY 3RD AND DEPART FOR HUA HIN MAY 8TH.
3. THE PRIME MINISTER IS PRESENTLY IN CHINA BUT, ACCORDING TO HIS STAFF AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE ONLY PENDING VISIT FOR LATE APRIL/EARLY MAY PERIOD IS GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KRIANGSAK'S PROPOSED VISIT TO BURMA. MFA OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT BURMESE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED MAY 9-14 BUT THAT THESE DATES HAVE NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITH PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK AND ARE THEREFORE VERY TENTATIVE. MFA SOURCE SAID HE BELIEVED PRIME MINISTER PREFERRED A LATE APRIL VISIT, BUT NOTHING COULD BE RESOLVED UNTIL PRIME MINISTER RETURNED FROM CHINA TRIP APRIL 6.

4. OBVIOUSLY, SCHEDULING FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WOULD BE COMPLICATED IF VISIT TAKES PLACE WHILE KING AND QUEEN ARE IN HUA HIN, SO THAT PERIOD MAY 3-8, PREFERABLY MAY 4-5 OR MAY 6-7 LOOKS BEST TO US AT THIS TIME. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE KING WOULD BE IN BANGKOK DURING THAT PERIOD. VISIT AT THAT TIME WOULD NOT INTERFACE WITH ANYTHING PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. IF A VISIT AT THAT TIME IS NOT FEASIBLE, WE MIGHT HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO ARRANGE A TRIP TO HUA HIN, WHICH IS ABOUT 45 MINUTES TO AN HOUR FROM DON MUANG BY HELICOPTER AND ABOUT 30 MINUTES BY C-12 AIRCRAFT. (BOTH JUSMAG AND DAO HAVE C-12S WHICH CAN SEAT 8 PASSENGERS BUT WE FEEL SURE RTG WOULD PROVIDE OTHER AIRCRAFT SUPPORT AS REQUIRED.)

WHITEHOUSE

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